

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Ben Livsey)
MEETING DATE: February 13, 2013

ITEM: **5B**

SUBJECT: **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Calaveras Dam Replacement Project, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties** – Amendment of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification

CHRONOLOGY: March 2011 – Board adopted Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and Water Quality Certification

DISCUSSION: The Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) would amend the WDRs and certification for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Calaveras Dam Replacement Project (Project).

The Revised Tentative Order would authorize the excavation and disposal of an additional 3 million cubic yards (cy) of surplus rock and soil. The material will be excavated from a recently discovered landslide deposit at the left abutment of the replacement dam. Five new disposal sites will be added to those previously authorized under the 2011 WDRs. Two of the disposal sites are located almost entirely within the future inundation area of the reservoir and three of the disposal sites will be in uplands. A portion of the materials (approximately 1.4 million cy) will be stored temporarily and utilized in dam construction. The rest of the material will be deposited in the five new disposal sites. Although this will result in an increase of 12.5 acres in placement of fill in the open water habitat (to a total of 16 acres), there is no change to the mitigation requirements because, when the Project is complete, the open water habitat will expand by about 433 acres with the restored water levels.

The Revised Tentative Order would continue to regulate the construction of the replacement dam and other project components, as well as updating reporting requirements and compliance with all revised engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports submitted to reflect the project design changes and additional disposal of surplus rock and soil.

As background, the Project is being implemented under the SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program, which is upgrading the SFPUC's aging drinking water facilities. The purpose of the Project is to replace Calaveras Dam so that it is no longer subject to restrictions on the height of water stored in the reservoir behind the dam due to concerns that the dam could fail during strong earthquakes. Removing the restrictions and restoring the reservoir's historical storage capacity allows the SFPUC to increase the amount of water stored in the reservoir by 60 percent.

A tentative order for the Project was circulated on December 17, 2012. The comment period ended January 17, 2013. Staff received no comments. Since its circulation, we have made minor editorial and formatting changes to the tentative order. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMEN-
DATION:

Adoption of Revised Tentative Order

CIWQS Place ID:

743933

APPENDIX A:

Revised Tentative Order